

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Combined Air Emissions Reporting (CAER) project seeks to streamline the way industry reports air emissions to meet EPA, state, local, and tribal program requirements.

The CAER System (CAERS) is an electronic reporting application that allows facilities to report to more than one program via a single data submission.

PROJECT LEADS

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COMBINED AIR EMISSIONS REPORTING (CAER)

Streamlining air emissions reporting

Challenge

Various federal, state, local, and tribal programs require industry to report air pollutant emissions to separate systems at different times of the year to meet requirements for the following programs: the National Emissions Inventory (NEI), the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP), the Compliance and Emissions Data Reporting Interface (CEDRI), and partner-specific systems. This leads to duplication of effort for both industry and government. While each program collects different data, shared data could be reported just once for use across multiple programs.

Benefits

Combined emissions reporting will reduce redundancy in reporting air emissions and associated facility data, as well as review time for EPA, state, local, and tribal programs on data quality assurance and data reconciliation among programs.

- **Regulated Community:** CAER will decrease the reporting burden for facilities by reducing duplicative data entry across programs and improving both the reporting experience and efficiencies.
- **Public:** CAER will improve data availability, timeliness, transparency, consistency, and quality for users.
- **Regulators:** EPA, states, tribes, and local governments will spend less time reviewing, compiling, and reconciling data, and the most timely and high-quality data will be available to decisions makers.

Accomplishments

CAERS Version 2 deployed in March 2021 for the NEI 2020 reporting cycle and is being used by more than 300 facility reporters in Georgia, by the District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment, and by the local authorities of Pima, Arizona.

CAERS Version 3 deployed in February 2022 and was used by Rhode Island facilities to report inventory year 2021 data. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources reported significant time savings in the process of review and submission of NEI data to EPA, having submitted that data to EIS four months before the actual deadline.

What's Next?

- Begin use of CAERS by Maine and Idaho in February of 2023.
- Build additional CAERS functionality to meet new NEI program requirements and refine the data that can be made available to TRI to provide more information to TRI reporters about CAERS data.
- Establish data workflows with CEDRI and GHGRP.
- Work with partners from Arizona, Minnesota, Montana, and Rhode Island.
- Develop several shared services to support CAERS. These services will also be available as stand-alone products for use by state, local, and tribal partners not using CAERS.